

IV. *A Letter from Martin Triewald, F. R. S. Captain of Mechanics, and Military Architect to the King of Sweden, to C. Mortimer, M. D. Sec. R. S. concerning the Vegetation of Melon-Seeds Forty-two Years old.*

S I R,

Read May 20.  
1742.

**H**AVING at present an Opportunity of writing, I must acquaint you with an Experiment I made this Year, relating to Vegetation, which was as follows: Secretary *Hareus*, of this Place, having a large Collection of Natural Curiosities, amongst which he has likewise collected a great Number of foreign Seeds, and finding he had *Melon-seeds* that were laid up in a Paper in the Year 1700. I was curious to try if they had retained their vegetative Quality, and accordingly the 21<sup>st</sup> of *February* last, I planted myself Twenty-four of them in a separate Hot-bed, of which I had Twenty-one good Plants, which, after they were planted in a new-made Hot-bed, shewed Flowers before they began to branch themselves, and their Branches were very narrow, yet produced early and plenty of good *Melons*. This Experiment shews not only how long *Melon-seeds* retain their vegetative Quality, but likewise that good *Melon-seeds* cannot well be too old. I know it is no new thing to make use of old *Melon-seeds* rather than new, but I never heard of any body trying so old as these. So if you think this Experiment worth taking Notice

Q

tice of in the *Transactions*, shall be obliged to you,  
remaining, with infinite Respect,

Honoured Sir,

*Your most obedient,  
and most humble Servant,*

Stockholm,  
Nov. 16. 1741.

M. Triewald,  
F. R. S.

V. Samuelis Christiani Hollmanni, *Leg. Met.  
& Theol. Natural. in Regia Georgia Augu-  
sta, P. P. O. ad Cromwellum Mortim-  
erum, M. D. Regalis Societ. Secr. Epistola  
de Differentiis Altitudinum Barometrorum.*

Read May 20.  
1742.

**F**ACILE te veniam daturum spero,  
vir doctissime, quod ad humanif-  
simas tuas, Id. Aug. A. 1735. Lond. datas, recteque  
mihi suo tempore redditas, nihil adhuc responderim.  
Defuit occasio, iusta etiam defuit scribendi ratio, quam  
nunc casus mihi obtulit.

Eram nuper mense Julio hujus anni in eo, ut cum  
Clar. Hallero nostro in finitimæ Hercyniæ nostræ  
montes iter aliquod fusciperem; ille quidem rei botani-  
cæ, ego physicarum potissimum observationum, causa.  
Barometrum ergo aliquod inter alia parabam, quo in  
via uti commodè possem ad instituenda experimenta.  
Scalam ascensus descensusque mercurii, ipsi applican-  
dam, in pedis Rhenani digitos, & lineas duodecimales,  
more solito, a 20<sup>mo</sup> ad 32<sup>dum</sup> digitum sollicitè divi-  
seram.